1   38. (Amended) The method according to claim 36 wherein the moving steps are

2   carried out in a manner that the first and second data tracks are substantially straight data tracks.

1   39. (Amended) The method according to claim 38 wherein the repositioning step is

2   carried out by moving the data head in a direction substantially perpendicular to the first data tracks.

REMARKS

Claims 31-40 are pending.

Applicant has amended the specification to more adequately define his invention. Support for the amendmen may be found in claim 31.

Claims 31, 32, 34, 35, and 37-40 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirokawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,762,182).

Claims 33 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirokawa.

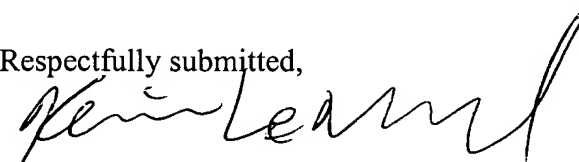These objections are especially traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited prior art disclose card readers that transport a data card along a path substantially parallel to the read path. In contrast thereto, the present invention provides that the read/write position is on a path that is substantially perpendicular to a path including the load/unload position. Accordingly, It is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art, either alone or in combination, teach, disclose or even suggest a data system as recited in claims 31-33, a data unit as recited in claim 34 and a method for reading and/or writing data as recited in claims 35-40 and therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 31 to 39 have been amended as follows:

1   31.   (Amended) A data system comprising:

2   a data storage card having a data storage medium;

3   a housing comprising a panel;

4   an opening formed in the panel sized for passage of the card therethrough <u>along a first</u>

5   <u>path substantially parallel to the axis of the card</u>;

6   a card support <u>for receiving said card and which is</u> movable between a load/unload

7   position and a read/write position <u>wherein the load/unload position is along said first path and said</u>

8   <u>read/write position is located on a second path substantially perpendicular to said first path</u>;

9   a card handler [means] <u>mechanism comprising at least one pair of driving members</u>

10   for <u>engaging and</u> moving the card between the opening and the card support;

11   a data head; and

12   means for moving at least one of the data head and the card support carrying the card

13   relative to one another, whereby the data head can read data from and/or write data to the data

14   storage medium when the card support is at the read/write position.

1   32. (Amended) The data system according to claim 31 wherein the moving means

2   causes the data head to move along <u>substantially</u> parallel tracks along the storage medium.

1   33. (Amended) The data system according to claim 31 wherein the <u>substantially</u>

2   parallel tracks are constant-radium curved tracks.

1   34. (Amended) A data unit, for use with a substrate having first and second edges

2   and a data surface region therebetween, comprising:

3   a base;

4   a substrate support, configured to support a substrate, mounted to the base;

5   a data head drive mounted to the base, the data head drive comprising a data head

6   reciprocally moveable along a second path;

7   a step driver controllably moving <u>at least one of</u> the data head drive and the substrate

8   support relative to one another along a first path <u>and said second path</u>;

9   first and second data head support surfaces positioned at opposite ends of a second

10   path and adjacent to said substrate support, said first and second paths being transverse to one

11   another; and

12   said data head comprising a data head surface which contacts said first and second

13   data head support surfaces as said data head moves along the opposite ends of said second path.

1   35. (Amended) A method for reading and/or writing data from/to a plurality of

2   parallel data tracks on a substrate comprising:

3   moving said substrate on a substrate support to a location accessible by a data head;

4   positioning a data head at a first position on the substrate;

5   moving the data head along a first data track on the substrate to permit reading and/or

6   writing of data from/to the first data track;

7   repositioning the data head to a second position on the substrate spaced-apart from

8   the first data track;

9   moving the data head along a second data track on the substrate to permit reading

10   and/or writing of data from/to the second data track; and

11   causing said moving steps to be carried out so that said first and second data tracks

12   are parallel data tracks.

1   36. (Amended) The method according to claim 35 wherein the moving steps are

2   carried out in a manner that the first and second data tracks are substantially curved, constant-radius

3   data tracks.

1   37. (Amended) The method according to claim 35 wherein the repositioning step is

2   carried out by moving the data head in a direction [generally] substantially perpendicular to the first

3   data tracks.

1   38. (Amended) The method according to claim 36 wherein the moving steps are

2   carried out in a manner that the first and second data tracks are substantially straight data tracks.

1   39. (Amended) The method according to claim 38 wherein the repositioning step is

2   carried out by moving the data head in a direction [generally] substantially perpendicular to the first

3   data tracks.